

## How This Resource Supports Increasing Student Engagement, Achievement, and Growth

### Overview

The strategies in this resource

- Align with current WCPSS initiatives for improving learning and teaching
- Provide appropriate levels of challenge to develop the knowledge, understanding, and skills specified in the content and learning goals
- Are designed to be infused easily into existing lesson plans in order to ensure students are actively thinking and learning
- Promote deeper reading in all content areas
- Focus on increasing comprehension, thinking, vocabulary, retention, and mastery of skills
- With regular use, foster increased performance and high growth for students
- Are versatile and adaptable

These strategies are aligned with and support research-based best practices in

- Brain research
- Effective classroom instruction
- Differentiated curricula and instruction
- Classroom management techniques

### Benefits

Teachers benefit by

- Having a wide variety of instructional strategies that are ready to implement and are adaptable and versatile
- Having appropriate levels of challenge for various groups of students
- Having opportunities for frequent informal formative assessment to inform instruction
  - Checking for understanding
  - Clarifying misunderstanding
  - Providing feedback
- Facilitating the learning process by
  - Assessing prior knowledge
  - Increasing and varying content review
  - Introducing new content
  - Improving questioning techniques
  - Increasing student-centered and teacher-facilitated activities
  - Increasing rigor in content learning
  - Providing opportunities for varied learning experiences
  - Increasing coaching, classroom discussion, modeling, questioning, and practice
- Experiencing success and a renewed enthusiasm and excitement in the classroom

## Student Engagement Strategies

### Introduction

#### Students benefit by

- Practicing deeper reading, comprehension, and vocabulary skills
- Being more actively engaged
- Having more opportunities for listening, reading, speaking, and writing
- Improving comprehension, summarization, and vocabulary
- Improving thinking
- Improving performance
- Increasing collaboration with other students
- Receiving teacher recognition
- Working in different learning styles
- Developing their individual learning strengths
- Enhancing their understanding through increased use of graphic organizers
- Becoming more reflective and responsible for their own learning
- Being more involved in appropriate classroom behavior
- Having increased opportunities for success in the classroom

#### Diverse needs of learners are met through opportunities for

- Flexible grouping
- Formative assessments
- Higher-order thinking skills
- Learning centers or stations
- Learning styles
- Multiple intelligences
- Open-ended activities
- Scaffolded support
- Student interest
- Student self assessment
- Tiered activities and assignments
- Varied questioning
- Varied texts and materials

#### Tips

- Most strategies require little further preparation before being ready to use.
- Repeat strategies frequently to increase student and teacher familiarity and, therefore, improve the benefits.
- Use a variety of strategies in order to enrich student experiences and increase correlation with content goals.
- Experiment with adapting the strategies to different uses.
- If a particular strategy isn't effective, try it again – perhaps with a different type of implementation.